

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 05002 171610Z

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 SYE-00 SSO-00 /019 W

-----027773 171624Z /45

O 171500Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1384

INFO USSS/ID IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 5002

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF ALDO MORO

REF: STATE 067971

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY CABLE GIVING AS MUCH INFORMATION BRIEFLY AS IS KNOWN AT THIS TIME. A DETAILED REPORT WILL FOLLOW LATER. POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED AS YET REGARDING THIS MATTER. THE TIMING IS INOPPORTUNE AS ALL POLICE FORCES ARE OCCUPIED WITH MASSIVE SEARCH AND INVESTIGATIVE MATTERS.

A. THE TERRORISTS USED A FIAT "128" STATION WAGON WHICH BRAKED SUDDENLY IN FRONT OF THE PRINCIPAL'S CAR. THE LATTER BUMPED INTO THE "128" AND THE POLICE FOLLOW CAR BUMPED INTO THE REAR OF THE PRINCIPAL'S CAR, IN EFFECT, TRAPPING IT INTO IMMOBILITY BETWEEN THE TWO VEHICLES. NO OTHER ROAD BARRIER WAS USED.

B. A LARGE AMERICAN CAR COULD HAVE MOVED THE "128", BUT SO COULD HAVE THE PRINCIPAL'S FIAT 130. THE PROBLEM WAS THE POLICE ESCORT HAD NO TIME TO REACT AS THEY WERE DEAD OR WOUNDED WITHIN SECONDS.

: PRINCIPAL'S VEHICLE WAS A FIAT 130 SEDAN. IT WAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 05002 171610Z

NOT ARMORED.

D. NOT KNOWN.

E. CHAUFFEUR OF PRINCIPAL'S CAR WAS 44 YEAR OLD CARABINIERE AND HAD CHAUFFERED MOR FOR 20 YEARS. CHAUFFEUR OF POLICE FOLLOW CAR WAS A 52 YEAR OLD CARABINIERE.

F. THERE WERE TWO POLICEMEN RIDING IN THE FRONT SEAT OF THE PRINCIPAL'S VEHICLE. ONE WAS THE DRIVER. BOTH WERE KILLED.

G. NOT KNOWN. WHAT WAS KNOWN IS THAT MORO GOES TO COMMUNION EVERY MORNING AT THE SAME CHURCH. ALSO, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY HE WOULD BE PRESENT THAT DAY IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES TO TAKE PART IN THE DEBATE ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

H. THE NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE ESCORT DID FROM TIME TO TIME TAKE ALTERNATE ROUTES. EXTENT IS NOT KNOWN.

I. NO POLICE LEAD CAR WAS USED.

J. ALFETTA 2000. NOT ARMED.

K. NOT KNOWN.

L. IT IS BELIEVED THE TERRORISTS USED A "TULA TOKAREV TT", A RUSSIAN AUTOMATIC PISTOL DATING BACK TO 1930. IT NORMALLY USES 7.62 CALIBRE BULLETS, BUT WILL ALSO TAKE SLIGHTLY LARGER MAUSER AMMUNITION. IT IS PRESENTLY IN USE BY THE RUSSIAN ARMY AND IS ALSO PRODUCED UNDER OTHER NAMES IN BULGARIA AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ROME 05002 171610Z

AMONG THE 77 SHELLS FOUND ON THE SCENE THERE WERE IDENTIFIED SOME FROM A "NAGANT" PISTOL, ANOTHER RUSSIAN ARM DATING BACK TO CZARIST ARMY DAYS. THIS WEAPON HAS BEEN USED IN SEVERAL OF THE RED BRIGADE KILLINGS. ALSO IDENTIFIED WERE SHELLS FROM A "MAB 38" A MACHINEGUN-PISTOL OF A TYPE PRESENTLY IN USE BY THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES.

M. RESIDENTIAL ZONE. TO ONE SIDE OF THE STREET IS AN ABANDONED BAR, TO THE RIGHT RESIDENCES. AT INTERSECTION A STOP SIGN. PHOTOGRAPHS AND DIAGRAMS TO ACCOMPANY DETAILED REPORT WILL BETTER DESCRIBE.

N. NONE KNOWN.

O. IT IS BELIEVED AT LEAST 12 RED BRIGADISTS WERE INVOLVED INCLUDING ONE WOMAN: FOUR DRESSED IN ALITALIA PILOTS UNIFORMS WHO DID THE KILLING: 4 DRIVERS, AS IT SEEMS THIS MANY AUTOS WERE UTILIZED IN THE ATTACK AND 4, INCLUDING THE WOMAN, ASSIGNED AS "COVER" TO INSURE PROTECTION FOR THE ESCAPE. THE IDENTITY OF THE RB MEMBERS IS NOT KNOWN.

P. PRINCIPAL AND FOLLOW CAR ONLY. NO MOTORCADE.
ARTICLES FROM ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES WILL BE POUCHED.
IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THERE IS STILL GREAT CONFUSION IN
REGARDS TO EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. THE OVERALL FACTS ARE
KNOWN. THE NUMBER OF ATTACKERS MAY HAVE BEEN 12 OR THERE
MAY HAVE BEEN LESS.GARDNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME05002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780119-0628
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780354/aaaabtoltel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 168717c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 67971
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3289967
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPING OF ALDO MORO
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/168717c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014